



**State of New
Hampshire
Department of
Education**

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Messages From the Department of Education

July 2012

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ACCOUNTABILITY, ASSESSMENT, CURRICULUM, AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

A. Accountability & Improvement System - ESEA Flexibility/Waiver

The NH Department of Education is continuing to explore the possibility of applying for an ESEA Flexibility Waiver for the September, 2012 deadline. Commissioner Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D., in consultation with the Governor and numerous leaders across New Hampshire, has made it clear that the state will only go forward with a request if it is done in a way consistent with NH's local control character and educational system. A meeting is scheduled with the US Department of Education (USED) later in July to discuss the possible particulars of a NH waiver, to determine if the Secretary would consider elements outside of the current USED guidance. More information can be found at www.education.nh.gov/accountability-system/index.htm.

Contact: Paul Leather, (603) 271-3801, Paul.L Leather@doe.nh.gov

B. Statewide Assessment Memo for School Year 2012-2013

The Department has issued its annual assessment memo that helps people to understand what will be happening in state assessment next year. This memo was distributed in June. It can also be found on the NH DOE Web site at www.education.nh.gov/instruction/accountability/notices.htm.

Tim Kurtz has retired from the Department and **Gaye Fedorchak** will be retiring at the end of July. The Department is working to cover their roles as quickly as possible, and will send a memo to the field. In the meantime, procedural questions connected to:

- NECAP: should be directed to the MP Service Center (1-877-632-7774)
- NH ALPS: should be directed to Tina Haley at MP (1-800-431-8901)

Keith Burke will be assisting the NH DOE during the coming year as we transition to a new assessment support system.

Contact: Keith Burke, (603) 271-3846, Keith.Burke@doe.nh.gov

DATA

A. End Of Year (EOY) i4see Data Collection

Following are the dates for i4see end of year submissions:

- Now - July 15 – Sped Public Submission and EOY Enrollment for sped nonpublic students
- Now - July 15 – State Scholar Submission for participating High Schools (12th grade participants only) and Course and Class Submissions for school year 2011-2012.
- Now - July 15 – Final EOY Submissions (both EOY Enrollment and EOY Academic) – submissions should be district verified by July 15 – Do NOT certify at this time
- July 15 – August 1 – All state anomalies MUST be resolved and District Reports confirmed

- August 1 – Superintendents “certify” EOY submissions and print, complete, sign, and send “Tuition Report Receiving,” “Nonpublic 10-11 Special Education Students (A13N),” and “Nonpublic 10-11 Non-Special Education Students (A13 Other)” reports
- August 1 - October 31 – The DOE will review all submissions and contact schools with questions
- November 1 – Superintendents should print, sign and submit “Determination Sign Off” for each district.

B. NECAP Label Requests for Fall testing

- The i4see Workbench is now open to accept NECAP Label Requests through August 8th
- Although testing is for grades 3-8 and 11, please submit ALL grades 1-12 for populating Performance Plus
- Please be sure the label requests contain the correct grade for the students being tested this Fall.

Contact: Sandy Hyslop, (603) 271-2831, Sandy.Hyslop@doe.nh.gov

C. School Safety Survey

The School Safety Survey for school year 2011-2012 was released in June. After the data is entered, superintendents will need to review the completed surveys and certify them on-line no later than Friday, July 13, 2012 (hardcopies of the survey are no longer accepted). Please remember that submission of this data is required by RSA 193-E:3.

Frequently Asked Question

How do I get the survey to my superintendent once it has been successfully saved?

Once the survey has been saved successfully there are no further steps you need to take except to let your superintendent know that the survey has been completed. The superintendent will be able to login under his/her ID to certify it.

Contact: Gretchen Tetreault, (603) 271-5874, Gretchen.Tetreault@doe.nh.gov

FUNDING

A. School Facilities

- a) Please submit Form A24F and any other missing documentation as soon as construction projects are complete. We cannot make the final payment on any project with missing documentation.
- b) Schools which are closed for the summer should be inspected frequently for leaks, especially after heavy rain. Moisture should be removed within 48 hours to prevent the growth of mold. Ventilation should be maintained in all buildings. Avoid cleaning carpets using wet processes on hot humid days and on Fridays when the building will be closed for the weekend.

Contact: Marjorie Schoonmaker, (603) 271-3620, Marjorie.Schoonmaker@doe.nh.gov

B. Social Security Disability Benefits for Children - How Schools Can Help

The Social Security Administration through Supplemental Security Income (SSI) makes payments to disabled or blind children under the age of 18. When school records are requested, a form is included for the child's current teacher or the teacher most familiar with the child to complete regarding function in the classroom. Schools can help by expediting the request for school records and by teachers expeditiously completing the teacher questionnaire and returning it. Please spread the word. Let others at the school know how important school records and information from the teacher are in the disability process.

Contact: Peggy Vieira, (603) 271-3341, x306, Peggy.Vieira@ssa.gov

GRANTS and REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

A. Race to the Top District (RTT-D) grant

The US Department of Education (USED) recently announced the Race to the Top District (RTT-D) grant competition for school districts. RTT-D competition specifically invites school districts and district consortia to create plans for individualized classroom instruction. The USED plans to release the application in July with an October submission deadline. Please watch the US Department's Web site (www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop-district/index.html) for application details.

HEARINGS

A. Ed 506.01 and Ed 614.05 and Ed 506.02 (Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent)

A public hearing will be held at 11:30 a.m. August 15, 2012 in the State Board Room at the NH Department of Education, 101 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH 03301. Deadline for submission of written comments is August 28, 2012.

B. Ed 507.04, Ed 507.46, Ed 507.47 and Ed 612.31(c),(e)&(f) (Comprehensive Agricultural, Marketing and Business Education)

A public hearing will be held at 11 a.m. August 15, 2012 in the State Board Room at the NH Department of Education, 101 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH 03301. Deadline for submission of written comments is August 28, 2012.

Contact: Mary Mayo, (603) 271-3189, Mary.Mayo@doe.nh.gov

INNOVATIONS/INITIATIVES

A. New Hampshire Receives ECS Frank Newman Award for State Innovation

The Education Commission of the States (ECS) will honor New Hampshire's State Board of Education and Department of Education with the prestigious Frank Newman Award for State Innovation at the 2012 National Forum on Education Policy in Atlanta on July 10. The award recognizes the state's bold high school reforms that replace the time-based system of Carnegie units with competency-based learning and the innovation taking place in New Hampshire K-12 schools. Since the 2008-09 school year, New Hampshire high school students earn credits based on their mastery of competencies in each course, no matter how little or much time they need. Working with their teachers, students develop individual

learning plans that can include traditional classes, online courses, internships, and working with mentors. For more information go to www.education.nh.gov/innovations/index.htm.

Contact: Roberta Tenney, (603) 271-2079, Roberta.Tenney@doe.nh.gov

SCHOOL APPROVAL STANDARDS

This section applies to both public and non-public schools

A. School Approval Report For 2012

The school approval report for 2012 went to the State Board on June 20th. Schools will receive notice of their designation soon. Schools conditionally approved should submit documentation of compliance as soon as possible.

B. School/District Calendars

Many public schools have indicated in the accountability survey that they are maintaining a calendar based on days rather than hours. Ed 306.18 was changed last December. All calendars must provide at least the required number of instructional hours, 945 for elementary and 990 for middle and high schools, regardless of the number of days.

Contact: Leslie Higgins, (603) 271-3759, Leslie.Higgins@doe.nh.gov
Marie Morgan, (603) 271-4125, Marie.Morgan@doe.nh.gov

SPECIAL EDUCATION

A. New Hampshire Special Education Information System (NHSEIS) Weekly Forums

The New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE), Bureau of Special Education will continue to hold weekly forums via conference call on the New Hampshire Special Education Information System (NHSEIS).

Conference line number: 1-800-240-3895 / Conference ID: 600113

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>
Monday, July 9, 2012	10:00am
Tuesday, July 17, 2012	8:00am
Thursday, July 26, 2012	3:00pm
Friday, August 3, 2012	2:00pm
Monday, August 13, 2012	9:00am
Tuesday, August 21, 2012	11:00am
Thursday, August 30, 2012	2:00pm

Contact: Terry Hersh, (603) 271-3775, Terry.Hersh@doe.nh.gov

B. Surrogate Parent Program

This is a volunteer program designed to provide a child with a disability with an educational surrogate parent to act as the child's educational decision-maker. As the educational decision-maker you would participate in a child's special education team meetings, represent children whose parents are unavailable or unable to participate in the special education process, and are not responsible for any financial costs or direct care of the child. Volunteers

must be at least 21 years of age and complete an application that includes a background check. The NH DOE requires applicants to participate in a nine-hour training, which is offered at no cost to applicants. The training includes information on the special education process and related topics. (Professional Development credits are available for this training). The next training will take place Saturday, July 21, 2012 at the Oscar Foss Memorial Library, Barnstead, NH (9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)

Contact: McKenzie Harrington, (603) 271-3739, McKenzie.Harrington@doe.nh.gov

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ADVISORY

The NH DOE has issued a technical assistance advisory pertaining to changes in the Home Education laws. This advisory, as well as previous advisories can be found on the Department's Web site at www.education.nh.gov/standards/tech_advisories.htm.

Contact: Roberta Tenney, (603) 271-2079, Roberta.Tenney@doe.nh.gov

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Seventh Annual APEX Summer Leadership Institute

The APEX Summer Leadership Institute, *Multi-tiered Systems of Support: Teamwork, Leadership, and Data-Based Decision-Making to Prepare Every Student for Career and Adult Life*, is designed for teams from middle and high schools to build their skills and knowledge in implementing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) in order to improve their school culture and climate, improve student engagement, and produce higher graduation rates for all students. The Institute is also designed for students to build their personal and community leadership skills and to develop goals for their transition from school to adult life. Finally, the Institute offers an opportunity for policy makers, families, and community members to learn about the advantages of implementing PBIS and a three-tiered framework of school reform. This institute will take place August 15-16, 2012 at the Attitash Inn and Conference Center, Bartlett, NH. For the most updated information, visit www.iod.unh.edu/apexsi.

B. Annual Arts Education Conference

Join the NH State Council on the Arts, October 19 & 20 in Lebanon for "Opening Minds to the Arts," the 2012 NH Fall Statewide Arts Education Conference. Activities will include keynote speakers, hands-on workshops, grant writing information, teaching artists' exhibits and a STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) to STEAM (add the Arts) panel/seminar with artists, educators, engineers and scientists. Teachers, parents, teaching artists, community arts leaders and the public are invited. The conference is sponsored by the NH State Council on the Arts, the NH Department of Education, AVA Gallery & Art Center plus other partners in the Upper Valley and beyond. For more details, information on keynote speakers and workshops plus registration forms, visit www.nh.gov/nharts, or contact Catherine O'Brian, Arts Education Coordinator, New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, [603-271-0795](tel:603-271-0795), catherine.r.obrian@dcr.nh.gov.

OTHER

Volunteer NH Awards

Are any of your friends and neighbors doing outstanding volunteer work? Nominate them now for the Spirit of NH Awards. For more information or to nominate a person or group go to www.volunteernh.org/html/spirit-nomination-2012.html. Deadline for nominations is July 15, 2012.

General Project Grants from the NH State Council on the Arts (NHSCA)

Schools, after-school organizations, summer programs and home school groups are invited to apply in the General Project Grants category to bring arts presentations and quality arts learning activities to students and youth. This is a competitive grant with a required match. Next postmark deadline is August 3, 2012 for projects taking place between November 1, 2012 and September 30, 2013. For grant information, applications, and guidelines go to: www.nh.gov/nharts/grants or contact Catherine O'Brian, Arts Education Coordinator, (603) 271-0795, or Catherine.R.OBrian@dcr.nh.gov.

Art Programs at PSU College of Graduate Studies

Enroll now in Plymouth State University's "Arts in Education Summer Institute," held July 16 - 20, 2012, or in studio art courses held on the Plymouth, NH, campus in July and August. Courses will be offered in encaustic, printmaking, paper and bookmaking, photography, typography and watercolor. Email ajbarnes@plymouth.edu or visit www.plymouth.edu/graduate/news/summer-studio-art-courses for course dates and descriptions, and registration information.

Summer Youth Programs

The Owl Brook Hunter Education Center in Holderness still has room in their summer youth programs. These programs give youth (boys and girls) age 10-15 the chance to learn about the shooting sports, bowhunting and other outdoor skills. Sessions will be offered in July and August at Owl Brook. There is no charge for the programs, however, pre-registration is required and taken on a first-come, first-served basis. To sign up, call (603) 536-3954. For more information go to www.huntnh.com/Hunting/hunter_ed_center.htm.

USS Constitution Museum

The USS Constitution Museum is pleased to announce that Boston-based Liberty Mutual Insurance will sponsor all public school visits to the museum from Sept. 2012 to June 2015, thus allowing for free field trips for students of all ages, in and outside of Massachusetts. Public schools that participate in the Liberty Mutual Insurance-sponsored field trips will have access to a range of fun and educational experiences, using the historic naval vessel, USS Constitution and its crew as a lens for understanding the War of 1812. Through programs geared toward various grade levels-from pre-school through 12th grade-students can explore the excitement of "shipboard life" and the concept that ordinary people, working together towards a common goal, can have a direct and powerful impact on the nation's future. To learn more about the USS Constitution Museum and its field trip activities, please visit www.ussconstitutionmuseum.org/. Please note that field trips must be scheduled in advance, and are available on a first-come, first-served basis.